

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5493

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 2440

EO; 11652 GDS

TAGS: BGEN, BTRA, PBOR, PINT, TU, CY, GR, FR, UK

SUBJ: LEADING ISTANBUL BUSINESSMEN TAKE ACTIVE ROLE

IN EXPLAINING TURKEYS VIEWS ON CYPRUS

SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO TOP TURKISH GOVT. REPRESENTATIVES
RECENTLY TOURING EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND ASIA TO EXPLAIN
TURKEY'S POSITION ON CYPRUS, A DELEGATION OF LEADING ISTANBUL
BUSINESSMEN DEPARTED SEPT. 8 FOR A ONE-WEEK MISSION TO
LONDON AND PARIS, IN AN ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN TURKEY'S POLICY
TOWARD CYPRUS AND IN THE HOPE OF GENERATING A MORE FAVORABLE
PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARD TURKEY'S ACTIONS ON CYPRUS. END SUMMARY

1. ACCORDING TO AN INFORMED SOURCE IN THE TURKISH INDUSTRIALISTS'
AND BUSINESSMEN'S ASSN. (TIBA), THE ASSOCIATION RECENTLY
PROPOSED THAT A GROUP OF LEADING TURKISH BUSINESSMEN AND
INDUSTRIALISTS TRAVEL TO VARIOUS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO GENERATE
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A MORE FAVORABLE ATTITUDE, ESPECIALLY AMONG PUBLIC OPINION
MOLDERS, TOWARDS TURKISH POLICY ON CYPRUS. THE GROUP,

READING LIKE A WHO'S WHO IN TURKISH PRIVATE INDUSTRY, IS MADE UP OF NECAT ECZACIBASI, RAHMI KOCJG SELAHATTIN BEYAZIT, ORHAN AKER, SELMAN YASAR, SAHAT KOCATOPCU, JAK KHAMI, AND FEYYAZ BERKER, CHARMAN OF THE TIBA AND NOMINAL LEADER OF THE DELEGATION. THE GROUP STARTED FOR LONDON ON SEPT. 8, AND WILL CONTINUE ON TO PARIS SEPT. 11, RETURNING TO TURKEY FOLLOWING THE ONE-WEEK VISIT.

2. THE GROUP IS ARMED WITH AN 18-PAGE BROCHURE ENTITLED "THE FACTS ABOUT TURKEY'S INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS", WITH ENGLISH AND FRENCH VERSIONS, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WAS PROPOSED AND PAID FOR THE TIBA. REPORTEDLY THE TEXT WAS WRITTEN LARGELY BY ALTIMIR KILIC, PUBLISHER OF DEVIR MAGAZINE, AND MEHMET ISVAN, BROTHER OF RPP ISTANBUL MAJOR AHMET ISVAN, AND APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY PRIMIN ECEVIT. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE PRIOR TO DEPARTING THE GROUP MET WITH PM ECEVIT ON SEPT. 7 FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GROUP MEMBERS ARE PLANNING TO MEET WITH LEADING PRESS REPRESENTATIVES IN BOTH ENGLAND AND FRANCE TO PROMOTE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BROCHURE IN THE HOPE OF GENERATING A MORE POSITIVE AND FACORABLE IMAGE CONCERNING TURKEY'S RECENT ACTIONS ON CYPRUS. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, BOTH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES IN TURKEY HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GROUP AND IN FACT THE BRITISH AMB. ACCOMPANIED THE GROUP TO LONDON ON THE SAME PLANE.

3. ON SEPT. 9 FARUK AKCER, CHIEF ADVISOR TO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CALLED CONGEN ON BEHALF MAYOR ISVAN TO REQUEST NAMES, ADDRESSEES OF LEADERS IN U.S. HOUSE AND SENATE, POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS, MAYORS, AND UNIVERSITY "RECTORS" FOR PURPOSE OF MAILING TO THEM COPIES OF ABOVE-DESCRIBED BROCHURE. WHILE WE DO NOT HAVE RESOURCES FOR MAJOR RESEARCH EFFORTS, WILL MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO COOPERATE WITH MAYOR'S OFFICE ON HIS REQUEST.

4. COMMENT: TIBA HAS IN PAST BEEN ONE OF MOST FREQUENT AND VOCIFEROUS CRITICS OF ECEVIT GOVT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES. HOWEVER, TURKISH BUSINESSMEN HAVE SHARED THEIR COMPATRIOT'S ALMOST FIERCE/EXULTATION OVER SUCCESS OF TURKEY'S CYPRUS POLICY, AND
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HAVE EQUALLY SHARED RESENTMENT AT WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE BIAS OF FOREIGN PRESS IN FAVOR OF GREECE. THUS, WHILE TIBA EFFORT MAY BE MOTIVATED IN PART BY DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH GOT, IT IS PRIMARILY A REFLECTION OF INTENSE EMOTIONS WITH WHICH VIRTUALLY ALL TURKS APPROACH CYPRUS ISSUE, AND DESIRE ON PART OF BUSINESS LEADERS TO DO THEIR BIT IN JUSTIFYING TURKEY'S CYPRUS POLICY TO WORLD PUBLIC OPINION. WE ARE ATTEMPTING OBTAIN COPIES OF TIBA BROCHURE AND WILL FORWARD COPIES TO ADDRESSEES.
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